

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7979

DATE: June - July 2006
TO: Families of Children with Special Needs
FROM: Mary Marin, Executive Director, Parent Participation Program (PPP)
Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Division
SUBJECT: Heart-to-Heart Information Updates

Despite our best efforts, delays in receiving CSHCS services are likely from June 9 through July 5. The reason is the **June move of 50 CSHCS employees** into the Lewis Cass Building in downtown Lansing. Some CSHCS "fax" numbers will change, but not staff phone numbers, post office boxes and e-mail addresses. PPP operators will answer the CSHCS Family Phone Line as usual. However, in a change of routine, we combined our June and July *Updates*. Monthly issues resume in August.♥

PPP Updates

Most **evaluations** by 30 parents gave the **highest ranking possible** to *Health and Education Training* held so far this year. Four sessions in April kicked off the series hosted by Michigan's new **Family to Family Health Education and Information Center**.

Several participants noted that the information was new and useful. Several requested longer sessions.

Training Date Corrections

Tuesday, **June 6**, is the date of the **Health Information and Education Training** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in **Baraga**. Last month's *Updates* incorrectly lists a later June date.

Saturday, **July 29**, is the date of the **Health Resource Support Parent Training** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in **Marquette**. A promotional flier incorrectly lists a June date.♥

CSHCS Updates

Reimbursement of families for out-of-state meals during medical travel is suspended through September. This is a temporary response to a CSHCS transportation budget shortfall. It is not a policy change.

Explains CSHCS Director Kathy Stiffler, "*The CSHCS transportation budget had to be reduced. Families told us that it is more important to support the actual travel itself -- so families get to medical services -- than to help pay for meals once they are there. We will, of course, honor any meal reimbursement authorized before May 1.*"

For CSHCS medical travel expense questions, reach Nancy Carter at 1-800-359-3722.♥

More CSHCS clients with Medicaid coverage can get dental care through Delta Dental Plan of Michigan. On

May 1, MDCH added 22 counties to the Healthy Kids Dental plan, bringing the total to 59. Families seeking dental services should check with the CSHCS office in the local health department.♥

Events

Three-hour **Sibshops** for brothers and sisters of children with special needs take place Saturday, **June 17**, at *Children's Hospital of Michigan* in **Detroit**. Peer support and education is provided through games and talks. Groups are age six to 10 and 11 to 15. To register, phone (313) 745-5364.♥

Michigan's Oral Health Plan administrators want to hear first-hand from families of children with special health needs and from professionals. The aim is to learn about barriers and get suggestions to improve statewide oral health.

A **Forum** runs from **1 to 4 p.m.** on **June 27** in **Wayne**, **June 29** in **Charlevoix**, **July 18** in **Saginaw** and **July 20** in **Grand Rapids**.

Expense reimbursement is possible for families. To register for a forum or check on giving input in another way, reach Dr. Sheila Semler at (517) 335-8388 or at semlers@michigan.gov.♥

The **Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council** invites children with disabilities and their families to its third annual **Family Gathering** on **July 11** at Hawk Island Park in **Lansing**. The idea is to have fun while learning about respite, assistive technology, recreation, financial support, self-advocacy and more. For details, reach Mitzi Sharp at (517) 334-7240 or at sharp@michigan.gov.♥

Abilities Expo Metro Detroit takes place **Aug. 18-20** in **Novi**. The show features workshops and products to help persons with disabilities. Download a free-admission coupon and get details at www.abilitiesexpo.com.♥

Resources

Breakthrough Parenting for Children with Special Needs: Raising the Bar of Expectations is a new book by Judy Winter. Read details at www.judywinter.com.♥

Michigan parent and trainer Janice Fialka and co-authors at the *Waisman Center* tackle the emotional side of transition in a publication, **Whose Life Is It Anyway? How One Teenager, Her Parents, and Her Teacher view the Transition Process for a Young Person with Disabilities**. Using a scene format, the writers explore the relationships between the key transition partners. The 98-page publication includes talking points for group discussion plus best practice for involving youth in the process. Download it at no charge at www.waisman.wisc.edu/wrc/pub.html. Purchase hard copies at (608) 265-9852.♥

A Michigan family wants to donate **supplies** that, happily, its daughter no longer needs. Items are a *Kangaroo pump pole*, *Ross enteral sets*, *MIC-KEY Low Profile G-tubes (14 Fr)*, *Nutren Jr. and Suplena*. For details, phone *Family Support Network of Michigan* Support Parent Sandy LaPrad at 1-800-359-3722 or send e-mail to her at smlaprad@yahoo.com.♥

Michigander Scott Newport describes the attitude he and his wife developed through the 252-day hospital stay of their infant son in *The Warrior Mentality*, a December '05 *Exceptional Parent* magazine article. Click to it at www.noonansyndrome.org. That site also has Scott's April 2 post, *Priceless*. He

The Parent Participation Program (PPP) is a section of the Children's Special Health Care Services Division (CSHCS) of the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH).

CSHCS is part of MDCH's Bureau of Children and Family Programs. CSHCS primarily provides medical specialty care to children with a qualifying diagnosis. PPP serves families of all children with special needs. The Family Support Network of Michigan (FSN) is PPP's parent-to-parent support arm.

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CSHCS Family Phone Line
1-800-359-3722
8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday – Friday

CSHCS and this Update online
www.michigan.gov/cshcs

Free online course on CSHCS
www.training.mihealth.org

Events and Resources are compiled by PPP from a variety of sources. A listing does not denote endorsement.

If you receive multiple copies of this memo by mail, please let us know. To add your name to our postal mailing list or to remove it, *families* may call our CSHCS Family Phone Line or send e-mail to ppp@michigan.gov. Others, phone (313) 456-4381 or send e-mail to ppp@michigan.gov.

recounts his family's recent trip to the White House for a personal visit with President George W. Bush.♥

Dose of Humor

circulating on the Internet

A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.